

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8448

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1661

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, KS, RO

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN DESIRE TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH
ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 1627 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH DCM ON ANOTHER MATTER RELATED TO NORTH KOREA (BUCHAREST 1660), DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VASILE GLIGA REFERRED TO INFORMAL APPROACHES MADE BY DCM TO HIM AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER VASILE PUNGAN ON APRIL 18 (REFTEL) CONCERNING DESIRE OF SOUTH KOREAN DELEGATES TO IPU CONFERENCE FOR INFORMAL TALKS WITH ROMANIANS WITH VIEW TOWARD POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME FORM OF RELATIONS. GLIGA SAID SOUTH KOREAN REPS HAD BEEN HERE SUCH A SHOR TIME AND GOR HAD BEEN SO BUSY WITH IPU CONFERENCE THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER A REPLY, MUCH LESS TO MEET WITH SOUTH KOREANS. HE SAID ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD EXAMINE THE PROPOSAL IN DUE COURSE AND DECIDE WHAT, IF ANY, ATTENTION SHOULD BE ACCORDED IT. DCM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEMS INVOLVED BUT HOPED GOR WOULD GIVE IDEA AS POSITIVE A LOOK AS POSSIBLE. SHOULD THERE BE A POSITIVE DECISION, GOR MIGHT WISH TO EXPLORE MATTER FURTHER WITH SOUTH KOREANS DIRECTLY, AS WITH ROK AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA HO EUL WHANG, OR IT COULD PASS INITIAL MESSAGE THROUGH US IF ROMANIANS WISHED.

2. FOLLOWING OUR INITIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREANS HERE,
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DCM HAD LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR HO, WHO WAS PRINCIPAL ROK SPOKESMAN

ON THIS SUBJECT AND WHO HAD BEEN CHARGED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE MATTER VIGOROUSLY. HO HIMSELF FELT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTING SOME KIND OF RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA. DCM EXPLAINED POLITICAL COMPLEXITIES WHICH MADE A POSITIVE GOR RESPONSE UNLIKELY, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, NOTABLY THE IMPORTANCE TO ROMANIA OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ASIAN COMMUNISTS AS ALLIES AGAINST THE SOVIETS ON ISSUES INVOLVING THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. HE WAS ALSO ADVISED THAT WHATEVER SLENDER CHANCES MIGHT EXIST FOR DEVELOPING SOME KIND OF RELATION WITH ROMANIA WOULD BE ENHANCED BY VERY QUIET APPROACHES, PATIENCE AND WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW GOR TO RESPOND AT TIME OF ITS CHOOSING IF IT FELT CONDITIONS RIPE; PRESSURE TACTICS FOR EFFORT TO RAISE QUESTION IN TOO MANY PLACES AND AT TOO MANY LEVELS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. DCM SAID WE WOULD KEEP HO INFORMED IF ANYTHING DEVELOPED.

3. HO AGREED WITH THIS ASSESSMENT WHICH HE SAID HE WILL REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT BUT ADDED THAT HE HOPED US EMBASSY IN SEOUL COULD PASS ASSESSMENT OF US EMBASSY BUCHAREST TO ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY IN VIEW OF TENDENCY THERE TOWARD SIMPLISTIC VIEW ON QUESTION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY SEOUL DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH ROK OFFICIALS, CITING OUR ASSESSMENT AS WELL AS ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE US MISSION GENEVA TELLING AMBASSADOR HO OF GLIGA'S RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACHES ON HIS BEHALF.
BARNES

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